

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

- determining block boundaries;
- determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance;
- adaptively adjusting local saturation variation;
- adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail;

wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein in conjunction with adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

5. (original) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:

- determining block boundaries;
- determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance with a filter;
- adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast;
- adaptively simulating high frequency image detail by means of sharpening and addition of noise;

wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries.
7. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.
8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.
9. (original) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of:
  - determining block boundaries;
  - adaptively filtering luminance; and
  - adaptively adjusting local saturation variation.
10. (currently amended) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the steps of sharpening ~~[[of]]~~ existing detail and simulating missing detail by the addition of noise.
11. (original) The method of claim 10 including a step of adaptively filtering luminance.
12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein prior to adaptively filtering luminance, luminance values are interpolated across block boundaries.
13. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.
14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein after adaptively filtering luminance, chrominance is adaptively filtered.

15. (original) A method of reducing artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pixel value comprises luminance texture.

17. (original) A method of reducing artifacts in an image comprising the step of selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value according to a variance of a binary mask.

18. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 1.

19. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 2.

20. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 5.

21. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 8.

22. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 10.

23. (original) A computer having software and hardware therein that is capable of executing and performing the method of claim 15.

Please add the following new claims:

24. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

- determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;
- determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance in the block transform encoded image;
- adaptively adjusting local saturation variation in the block transform encoded image;
- adaptively simulating high spatial frequency image detail in the block transform encoded image;
- wherein the adaptive steps are executed to a degree or an amount dependent on the metric of artifact severity.

25. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

- determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;
- determining an approximate metric of artifact visibility;
- adaptively filtering luminance in the block transform encoded image with a filter;
- adaptively increasing local chrominance contrast in the block transform encoded image;
- adaptively simulating high frequency image detail in the block transform encoded image by sharpening the block transform encoded image and adding noise to the block transform encoded image;
- wherein the adaptive steps are executed to degree that depends on the metric of artifact visibility.

26. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts

in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

- determining block boundaries in the block transform encoded image;
- adaptively filtering luminance in the block transform encoded image; and
- adaptively adjusting local saturation variation in the block transform encoded image.

27. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

- sharpening of existing detail in the block transform encoded image; and
- simulating missing detail in the block transform encoded image by adding of noise in the block transform encoded image.

28. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image previously processed by block transform encoding, the computer process comprising:

- selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value in the block transform encoded image according to a variance of a binary mask.

29. (new) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program for executing a computer process that reduces artifacts in an image, the computer process comprising:

- selecting a median filter window based on an assessment of a pixel value in the image according to a variance of a binary mask.